

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the features added to claims 1 and 3 is found at, for example, Figs. 11-24.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,493,194 (Sakaguchi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,813,121 (Pinarbasi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 3 each recite that the pair of top surfaces of the pair of first layers include a pair of first portions touching the pair of second layers, and a pair of second portions touching the pair of covering layers, the pair of second portions being closer to the pair of end portions of the pair of first layers than the pair of first portions. Accordingly, the pair of second portions of the pair of top surfaces of the pair of first layers touch the pair of covering layers.

Sakaguchi discloses that the pair of second layers 7 entirely cover the top surfaces of the pair of first layers 6d (see Fig. 3). Accordingly, if a pair of covering layers, as recited in claims 1 and 3, are provided on Sakaguchi's pair of second layers, any part of the top surfaces of pair of first layers will not touch the pair of covering layers. Accordingly, Sakaguchi cannot be modified to achieve the presently claimed combination of features.

That is, Pinarbasi, in combination with Sakaguchi, cannot achieve the features of claims 1 and 3, as discussed above.

For the foregoing reason, claims 1 and 3, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are not rendered obvious by Sakaguchi, whether alone or in combination with Pinarbasi.

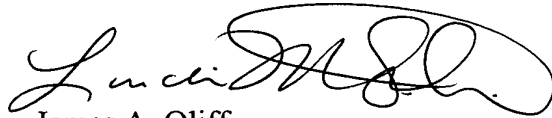
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: April 27, 2006

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